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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

July 23, 1996

In Reply
Refer To: ECL-111

Mr. Robert L. Geddes
Senior Environmental Engineer
Monsanto Chemical Company
P.O. Box 816
Soda Springs, ID 83276

Subject: Approval of Monsanto's Remedial Investigation Report
and Draft Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Geddes:

This letter provides the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) formal approval of Monsanto's Remedial Investigation Report (RI) and draft Feasibility Study Report (FS) for the Monsanto Chemical Superfund Site in Soda Springs, Idaho. This letter confirms that these tasks, as described in the March 1991 Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) between EPA and Monsanto, are now complete.

The four volume Phase II Remedial Investigation Report dated November 21, 1995 is approved as prepared by Golder Associates and submitted to EPA by Monsanto. Please note that EPA is still waiting to receive an electronic version of the ground water data, which Monsanto agreed to provide pursuant to the AOC.

The draft FS submitted April 1996 is accepted as revised by the May 30, 1996 replacement pages. This draft FS includes some material (e.g., Appendix E) which represent Monsanto's opinions and which constitute Risk Management, not evaluation of alternatives. Approval of the draft FS for submission does not constitute EPA agreement with or approval of these opinions. EPA allowed Monsanto to include the information to inform the discussion of alternatives.

The final FS to be provided to Monsanto and the general public will include this letter and EPA's Proposed Plan. These will be inserted into the front of the draft FS provided to EPA by Monsanto/Montgomery Watson. In order to do so EPA will be making 10 additional copies of the FS, unless Monsanto has additional copies available which it can/will provide.

With this approval, Monsanto has completed all specific

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deliverables described in the AOC, and Monsanto is relieved of the responsibility to provide monthly progress reports to EPA. However, the AOC remains in effect until the final Record of Decision for the site is signed, in case additional work pursuant to Paragraph 34 of the AOC is necessary to complete the RI/FS, and Monsanto remains responsible for EPA response and oversight costs through completion of the Record of Decision.

Thank you for your diligent efforts to complete the tasks required under the AOC, and congratulations for successfully doing so. If you have any questions about this letter, or have additional copies of the FS available for EPA to distribute with the Proposed Plan, please contact me as soon as possible at (206) 553-2100.

Sincerely,


Timothy H. Brincefield
Superfund Site Manager

cc: Kent Lott, Monsanto Soda Springs
Gordon Brown, IDHW Pocatello
Rob Hansen, IDHW Boise
Charles Ordine, EPA Associate Regional Counsel
Dean Pahl, Montgomery Watson, Inc.